

To The Evening Star.

In most offices two and two make four. In the Evening Star office there is a new way of figuring. With an average circulation of less than 32,000, when a special mail list to far away subscribers on its Saturday "dollar-a-year" edition is excluded, against an average of over 32,000 of The Times, The Star claims double the number of readers of any other newspaper in Washington.

If the Star were not known to be honest in all its circulation statements, this discrepancy could easily be accounted for. Will the Star kindly explain its new way of figuring? It should not hide a good thing.

Our Increased Navy.

Commenting on the increase in the expenditures for the navy incident to bringing it up to date, an astute contemporary observes that the navy that whipped Spain cost only \$34,000,000 in 1897, while the present navy, on a peace footing, is costing three times as much. That, to some minds, may prove that we should be content with the navy that whipped Spain. But had arguments of that sort prevailed when the first steps were taken toward putting the navy on a practicable basis, we should not have been whipped by her, and probably by somebody else afterwards. Precisely the same arguments were used then as now.

The fact is that our navy is not now, and never has been, equal in strength to that of any other first-class Power. Equal in quality it is, nobody can deny that, superior in quality to any other navy in the world, we love to think; but that is not enough. It will cost something, of course, to make it adequate to any demands it can possibly have to meet in the future; but when that work is done, some of the very people who are kicking now will be mighty glad to have it done.

It is not charged that any of this expenditure for the navy has been in illicit directions. The money has gone in strengthening our sea defenses, and every penny can be accounted for. The only criticism which can be made is that we need no such elaborate defenses, and of that the men who have the work to do may possibly be better judges than those who never got a sniff of salt water in their lives unless at the bathing beach.

Water for the Schools.

There seems to be a question about the desirability, or possibility, or something, of boiling the water used in the public schools. The objection seems to be that the process will be expensive.

So far as that is concerned, any sort of precaution against illness costs something. The Health Department some time ago ordered people in general to boil drinking water. Those who obeyed this order did so at a certain expense of time and money. It is rather a nuisance to boil all the water used for family drinking purposes, and it takes time, and an infinitesimal amount of fuel. Yet this time and money are supposed to be spent by all the people in the District who obey the orders of

the Health Department. If, following this, comes the failure of the Department to enforce precisely the same action on the part of the school authorities, what effect is it likely to have upon the people who have been trying to co-operate with the officials in stopping the spread of typhoid fever?

Children in school are bound to experience thirst, especially when the weather is warm. They can, of course, be laid under bonds by their parents to drink no water that has not been boiled, and they can be provided with bottled distilled or boiled water to take to school. But if they understand that the school authorities, who are part of the Government, do not obey the orders of the other part of the Government which is in charge of the public health, the respect they are likely to have for the sanitary precautions of the latter will be slight.

The Real Department Clerk.

It has of late become the fashion in certain quarters to deride the usefulness of the Government employee and even to attack his personal integrity. Sweeping charges, accompanied by no substantiating evidence, have more than once been made. Perhaps as conspicuous an instance as any is in this quotation from William Allen White's article in the September number of McClure's magazine entitled "Roosevelt and the Postal Frauds":

"Another thing blinded the President's eyes, and that is the spirit of life in the city of Washington. It is the hot-house of petty grafting. Of the 34,000 officeholders in the town, not 500 look upon their offices as sacred trusts to the people. Anything which the mass of Washington officeholders can get out of the Government is regarded by public opinion among them as clear gain, whether it be an hour's time or a railroad pass for betraying the Government's interest in matters under their care. The man who is making 'easy money' off the Government—let us not actually take the money out of the till—is looked up to with a kind of envious respect. Machen and Beavers were, therefore, little tin gods. Official Washington knew their power and presumed they were stealing, and official Washington honored them."

Similar charges are made by Champ Clark, a member of the House of Representatives from Missouri, in a recent number of the "Saturday Evening Post."

The mischief which might follow the failure to contradict such assertions as these is evident. These charges of Mr. White, Mr. Clark, and others, when trimmed to the bone are that the spirit of life in Washington is the spirit of petty grafting; that the mass of clerks in the departments are not only ready to steal, but willing to sell themselves for such insignificant pay as an hour's time or a railroad pass; and that the thief of large measure among them is viewed with approval and "honored" by his less daring associates.

No one of these detractors has offered the slightest proof that these 20,000 clerks in the executive departments are moved by a "spirit of petty grafting." So far that charge is entirely without support. Machen and Beavers were undoubtedly grafters and the disclosure of their operations awoke the most intense indignation of all their associates in the Government's service. It was another officer of the Government who exposed them when once the investigation was ordered, and his every step was made with the help of the very clerks whom Mr. White would have us think gave the thieves "honor." No one who is honest enough to make an inquiry through the departments will doubt for a moment that these clerks—far from regarding Machen and Beavers with "a kind of envious respect"—look upon them and upon all other thieves with the contempt held for such malefactors by all good citizens.

Nor are the clerks to be bought by an hour's time or a railroad pass. Even the virtual reduction in their salaries effected by the addition of half an hour to their work-day has not lessened their interest. As far as the eye can tell the mass of the clerks work diligently from 9 o'clock until 4:30, and if Mr. White and Mr. Clark had but taken pains to inquire they might have learned of hundreds who work hours overtime without any other recompense than the knowledge that their desks are "up."

The Times has cited facts which are within the knowledge of everyone at all well acquainted with conditions in the department service. They can be verified by any fair inquiry. They will be indorsed by every official who is not a spoliator, whether in the House of Representatives or out of it. But there is other proof.

Of the 30,000 Government employees who live in Washington, about half, according to the civil service records, have obtained their positions through competitive examination. In every such case the applicant has proven his mental ability and established his character. In many cases he has obtained his appointment through superiority over a thousand contestants. Perhaps a fair average would be that he proved himself the best man out of ten. Of those not admitted through competitive examinations the majority have held over from the days of the spoilsman. By the gauge of honest work diligently performed they have also proven themselves superior to the average workman of their own grade in private life. And the great majority of such employees as still remain to be accounted for are laborers. Drones there are and shirks, un-

doubtedly. But the process of selection which the Government has adopted makes this number much smaller than among the office clerks, bookkeepers, salesmen and other workmen of the Government. The Government clerk as known in Washington is not merely industrious and honest, but he is capable beyond the average employee in any other calling of similar character.

Excess in Luxury.

Recently an arbiter of fashion caused to be published the statement that any woman expecting social recognition must spend upon dress at least \$25,000 yearly.

This sum represents more than the entire income to which any but the exceptional few can hope to attain. It is five times that which in any community, but one where fortune is worshipped, would render a man independent, enable him to rear his family well, own his home, and be certain of a comfortable sum for his old age.

That community is fortunate in which economic conditions remain normal. When there is on one hand excessive poverty, and on the other a measureless degree of wealth that fairly riots in indulgence and even by this fails to impair itself, there can hardly be between the extremes any healthy and unperturbed medium. The well-to-do either are stirred of envy, or over them hovers the fear of sinking to the lower estate.

It follows that there will be a large class the members of which live by their wits. Some of these go upon the highway with bludgeons; others engage in confidence games either wantonly illegal or under the guise of respectability, and on a scale that makes them "financiers." They know that they could not by any course of ordinary business achieve the possibility of living on a scale of splendor, yet to live thus becomes their ambition. The most successful professional man would fail far short of being able to exist on the exalted, artificial plane. There are a few of vast wealth, acquired, perhaps, by means wholly or in part legitimate, who can afford any luxury that suggests itself to their desires. By yielding to the impulse they create a false standard, striving toward which people of less means court ruin.

Despite frequent assertion, there are as many opportunities for the industrious as ever. The trouble is with the new and bogus standard by which human endeavor and its results are weighed. The tendency of this is to make two classes, the very rich and the very poor, the elements between leaping or falling into one or the other according to the pressure of circumstances.

Points in Paragraphs.

Alexieff, in the act of resigning, would merely be letting go a hot poker.

Democracy seems to want German's services as an undertaker rather than a physician.

In the suit brought by an American woman against a Paris jeweler for having cheated her, a blow is struck to the theory that the American abroad is legitimate prey, and very easy.

According to an American about to expatriate himself, this country is not fit for a gentleman to live in. Perhaps, he goes in hope that some improvement may be noted after his departure.

Really the country cares little whether or not the Phipps divorce eventuates, but it cannot avoid being diverted by the brass band and red fire with which proceedings are decorated.

Science gives the blonde six centuries to survive, but the matter is one that will be decided by fashion.

So many stories are told about the theft of Newport jewels that some of them are almost believed.

With such weather as Washington had yesterday, there will be a string to the statutory farewell extended to the straw hat.

Correspondents are much disgusted with the Japanese. In this feeling the Russians are believed to share heartily.

It is to be hoped that after people have boiled water to headful fitness they will not be tempted to drink something else.

Stray Bits of Talk.

"I see Kuropatkin is still tiring the Japanese on."

"Yes. Just the same way I once tried to lure a bear up a tree."

"So the coroner could find no motive for Smith's suicide?"

"No. He was not so astute as Smith."

"Newspaper says this country is not fit for a gentleman, and so he is going abroad to live."

"Shows a worthy desire on his part to make the country more fit."

"Do you suppose the czar has really ordered the retaking of Liao-Yang?"

"Well, perhaps. The czar is more or less of a dreamer. I understand that he sent orders to the nursery for the royal baby to quit squalling."

The Candidate.

He got the nomination and the people grasped his hand. As though his arm was handle to a pump. With such as he in office, oh, happy, happy land!

IN SOCIETY'S CIRCLE

RETURNING FROM SUMMER RESORTS

Members of Smart Set Tire of Ocean Shore.

STEWARTS FROM SARATOGA

Minister of Panama Arrives—General Grant Back From Maneuvers. Other Social Gossip.

Senator and Mrs. William M. Stewart have returned to Washington after some weeks spent at Saratoga Springs and other New York resorts and are delightfully quartered in a large apartment at the Woodley for the present. Later they will make a trip to the St. Louis Exposition.

Miss McCauley has returned from a visit to Narragansett Pier, where she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John C. O'Donnell. She joined her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McCauley, at Chevy Chase Inn. The family will open their residence, 1718 Rhode Island Avenue, September 15.

Senor de Obaldia, the minister from Panama, and C. C. Arce, the secretary of the legation, arrived in the city Sunday from New York.

Gen. and Mrs. Fred Grant returned to the Arlington yesterday from Manassas.

Dr. George D. Kirkpatrick has returned to the city after a two months' trip in the West, where he went for complete rest and recreation.

Miss Margaret Wade has gone to St. Louis for the month of September, where she is serving as a juror in the department of education and social economy at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

Miss Isabel Shelton has returned from Atlantic City with her parents, and will finish her vacation at Old Point Comfort, with her cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Johnson.

Mrs. Annette C. Stirling and her daughters, Miss Rita and Miss Clemons Stirling, returned to their home, on Ontario Avenue, on Sunday, after a two weeks' visit at the fair in St. Louis, and a short visit in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Herndon Morsell and family have returned to their home on Fifteenth Street, from a six weeks' visit to the mountains of Virginia.

Miss Nelly Miller, who has been spending a fortnight at Boyds as the guest of Charles Linthicum, returned to the city yesterday.

Miss Elva Dickey, of Minneapolis, Minn., is the guest of her aunt, Mr. Edith M. Metzger, 1012 Eleventh Street northwest.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cammack and son have returned, after spending the month of July in St. Louis and the month of August in the Yellowstone Park, stopping over at St. Paul and Cincinnati.

Mrs. Carrie Ellins and Miss Mary Caughman, of Columbia, S. C., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. H. Frank Metzger, of 46 Fourth Street northeast.

Mrs. L. Gessford-Handy, of Rutherford, N. J., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Alexander Miller, 397 Eleventh Street southwest, and will return home on September 17.

Miss Sallie Beach has returned to the city from a visit to Norfolk.

Mrs. Ida L. Chase, president of the Department of the Potomac, Woman's Relief Corps, will entertain in honor of Mrs. Lida A. Oldroyd on Saturday evening, September 24, at her residence on Harrison Street, Annapolis, and on Sunday, as previously stated, Mrs. Oldroyd is the newly elected national vice president of the Woman's Relief Corps.

Mrs. Mary A. Owens has returned to Washington from a visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Marsden, at Catonsville, Md.

SOME LEAVING FOR THE RESORTS

Robert Burruss has gone to Virginia Beach, and while there will be the guest of Mrs. Thomas Panfill.

Thomas P. Van Arsdale has gone to Atlantic City for an outing, while there will stop at the Berkshire.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lendland have left Washington for Atlantic City, and while there will make their home at the Raleigh.

Miss Martini Porter has gone to Baltimore to be the guest of Miss May-Lautenberg, of 249 Eastern Avenue.

Miss Emma Davis has gone to Catonsville, Md., for a visit with her aunt, Mrs. C. C. B. Davis.

"BUTCHERS DIDN'T LOSE" SAYS STRIKE LEADER

President Donnelly Declares That Arbitration Will Rule in Labor Troubles in the Future.

DAVENPORT, Iowa, Sept. 13.—At a picnic of union butchers, President Donnelly, of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers' Union, declared that the meat-cutters' strike had not been lost. The butchers, he said, simply had not money enough to carry it through to a complete success.

"They fought a noble battle," said he. "The union must and will work under improving conditions hereafter. Their organization will be re-formed on a more substantial basis, with a permanent board of arbitration, which will work with a similar board representing the employers. Arbitration, we believe, will bring about permanent industrial peace."

WOMAN KILLED BY TRAIN.

SARATOGA, Sept. 13.—At East Line Mrs. Henry Glenn, on her way to visit a neighbor, was crossing the tracks of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad when she was struck by a train and instantly killed.

Praise and Criticism

Of President's Letter

General Opinion Designates It a Strong Political Document—Mr. Davis Suggests It Should Be Published Serially.

Politicians and other prominent men are much interested in President Roosevelt's letter of acceptance. Various opinions are expressed upon the subjects taken up in the document. Some of the comments follow:

GOV. FRANKLIN MURPHY of New Jersey, one of the members of the Republican National Executive Committee, said:

"In my opinion the letter will prove an excellent campaign document, since it expresses with that frankness and fearlessness for which the President is noted each of the pertinent questions before the voters in this campaign. It will tend to increase the confidence of a large number of persons in the President."

SENATOR NATHAN B. SCOTT of West Virginia:

"The letter will accomplish much. Young men and first voters throughout the country are bound to be influenced by it. It shows clearly that the Republican party has nothing to apologize for and everything to be proud of in its record of authority of the last eight years."

PATRICK H. MCCARREN:

"I see Roosevelt 'stands pat,' that he intends, if elected, to run things just as he has been running them. That must be apparent to everyone that to do that means to put the country on the verge of dissolution in a very short time. No country can stand forever the reckless extravagance of the Roosevelt Administration."

HENRY G. DAVIS, Democratic Candidate for Vice President:

"I started in to read the letter, but found I did not have time to finish it. It is so long that I would suggest that it be published in serial form, then the public might read it."

CHARLES A. MOORE, president of the American Protective Tariff League:

"A splendid Republican document, which rings true to our ideas of good, rugged Americanism in every sentence. If the Democrats want to make the issue on the personality of the two candidates that letter will give them something to think about."

UNITED STATES SENATOR P. J. MCCUMBER of North Dakota:

"A magnificent effort. As they say up in my country, 'I guess that will make them squirm for a while.' His treatment of all the issues before us leaves no doubt where he stands."

HENRY CLEWS:

"It was a finished product. It was convincing and at the same time was composed in a masterly manner."

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES H. GROSVENOR of Ohio:

"No man without prejudice can read that letter and fail to pronounce it the greatest document of the kind ever put out in a campaign. There will be no reply to President Roosevelt's arraignment of the Democratic party and statement of the attitude of the Republican party."

REPRESENTATIVE COWHERD, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Committee:

"Mr. Roosevelt is always dramatic, both as author and as President. That quality as an author makes him readable, but as President it makes him dangerous. His arguments in many respects are based on assumptions not borne out by the record. In his letter he attempts by boldness to belaud the issues."

"As a campaign document his letter for circulation among the masses will be valuable to his party, but as an appeal to reasoning men of intelligence it will not prove of value."

CAPT. LIEBHARDT'S BODY GOING HOME TOMORROW

Widow, Brother, and a Few Friends Will Accompany Casket to Milton, Ind.

The remains of Capt. David P. Liebhardt, superintendent of the Dead Letter Office, who shot himself at his desk on Saturday night, will be taken to his home, Milton, Ind., for burial tomorrow afternoon.

They will be accompanied by his widow and his brother, Frank M. Liebhardt, who will arrive in Washington from Richmond, Ind., this afternoon. A few personal friends may go to Milton, but none of the postoffice employees will go.

Ward Burlingame, chief clerk of the Dead Letter Office, an intimate friend of Captain Liebhardt, is acting superintendent.

Mr. Burlingame said this morning that there is no appreciation of which expenses of postoffice employees could be paid should they go to the funeral. As nothing is to be done by them that will not be done by the family of the dead man, no one will go.

Miss Ira Liebhardt, the only child of Captain Liebhardt, has left Los Angeles, Cal., where she now works, for her old home, and will meet her mother there. Miss Liebhardt was recently reduced and transferred from the Rural Free Delivery Bureau.

Captain Liebhardt's remains are still resting in the chapel of the city of Washington, where they will be kept until they are sent to Indiana. Brief services under the direction of the G. A. R. will be held in the chapel.

BALTIMORE WOMAN LEAVES FIFTY-NINE DESCENDANTS

Dispatches received in the city today announce the death in Baltimore yesterday of Mrs. Harriet A. Kaufman, at the home of her son-in-law, Louis M. Duval, secretary-treasurer of the Evening News Publishing Company.

Mrs. Kaufman was eighty-four years old, and was the mother of Mrs. William Sharwood, of Washington, and of two other daughters and one son. Mrs. Kaufman also leaves twenty-eight grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Mrs. Kaufman was the daughter of Jacob Little, of Frederick county. She resided in Baltimore until her late son-in-law's home tomorrow afternoon.

COMMISSIONERS PLAY STRONG DUMBARTONS

A baseball game has been arranged between the Commissioners and Dumbarton Club baseball teams, to be played at American League Park on Thursday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. These teams have met once before this season, and the Commissioners were victorious by a small score after a hard fought game. Admission will be 15 and 25 cents. Ladies admitted free.

NO WEST POINT DANCE.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 13.—Because Prof. R. W. Vilay, instructor at West Point, protested, the American Society of Professors of Dancing refused to consider a member's suggestion of a scottish dance to be known as the West Point. The society adjourned to meet in New York next September.

FORAKER'S SON-IN-LAW A PRIVATE POLICEMAN

Randolph Matthews, Former Yale Athlete and Football Player, on Search for Thieves.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Sept. 13.—Randolph, or as he is known about town, "Randy" Matthews, a former college athlete and football player, son-in-law of Senator Foraker and nephew to the late Judge Stanley Matthews, has been made a private policeman by the board of public safety. He is now entitled to wear a suit of gray with black braid, a badge, and carry a club.

Mr. Matthews in Yale was famous as an athlete and football player. He is more than six feet tall and is strong in proportion. The reason for Mr. Matthews' act is the continued stealing from the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, with which he is connected. Mr. Matthews is very proud of his commission, and his friends about town say they are sorry for the first offender caught by the former football player.

NEW MAIN EXCHANGE OF TELEPHONE COMPANY

It Will Be Put in Operation This Week. Great Improvement in Service Promised.

The new main exchange of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company will be put in service in the recently completed building at 722 Twelfth Street northwest, the latter part of this week, when about 6,000 working telephones will be moved from the building at the corner of Fourteenth and G Streets.

The main exchange is equipped with all modern improvements, and the company promises to give a better service to those persons on the main exchange than they have ever had before. After the change is made it will not be necessary to use the bell crank at all, the line being put in operation by merely taking the receiver from the hook.

At the exchange there are instruments which will show little red lights above the numbers when telephones are in use. By looking at these the operators will know that they are not to "butt in" with the annoying "Have you finished talking?" for when the conversation is ended and the receiver hung back, the red light will change to white, whereupon the exchange girl will break the connection and give her attention to the troubles of others.

No change in the numbers of telephones will occur, as was the case when the north exchange was established, but it will probably require several days to get the new exchange in good working order.

PRESIDENT SENDS PHOTO TO DAD OF TWENTY-FIVE

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Sept. 13.—President Roosevelt has sent his photograph, with "good luck" salute and autograph, to S. P. Swartwood and wife, of Mountain Top, who at fifty years of age are the parents of twenty-five children, twenty of whom are alive.